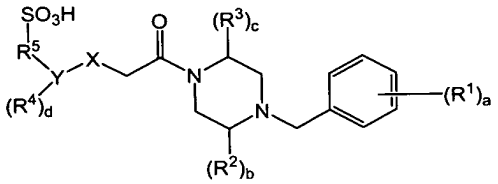
What is claimed is:

1. A method of treating or preventing a disorder or condition selected from the group consisting of fibrosis, Alzheimer's disease, conditions associated with leptin production, sequelae associated with cancer, cancer metastasis, diseases or conditions related to production of cytokines at inflammatory sites, and tissue damage caused by inflammation induced by infectious agents; wherein the method comprises administering to a mammal in need of such treatment or prevention a pharmaceutically effective amount of a compound of formula (I)



I

or the pharmaceutically acceptable salts and prodrugs thereof; wherein

a = 0, 1, 2, 3, 4, or 5;

b = 0, 1, or 2;

c = 0, 1, or 2;

d = 0, 1, 2, 3, or 4;

X is -O-, -S-, -CH_2-, -NR^6-;

Y is (C_6-C_{10})aryl, or (C_2-C_9)heteroaryl;

each R^1 is independently H-, HO-, halo-, (C_1-C_8)alkyl- optionally substituted with 1-3 fluorine atoms, (C_1-C_8)alkyl-O- wherein the alkyl group is optionally substituted with 1-3 fluorine atoms, HO-(C_1-C_8)alkyl-, NC-, H_2N-, H_2N-(C_1-C_8)alkyl-, HO-(C=O)-, (C_1-C_8)alkyl-(C=O)-, (C_1-C_8)alkyl-(C=O)-(C_1-C_8)alkyl-, H_2N-(C=O)-, or H_2N-(C=O)-(C_1-C_8)alkyl-;

each R^2 and R^3 is independently H-, oxo, (C_1-C_8)alkyl- optionally substituted with 1-3 fluorine atoms, (C_1-C_8)alkyl-, (C_6-C_{10})aryl-, (C_6-C_{10})aryl-(C_1-C_8)alkyl-, HO-(C_1-C_8)alkyl-, (C_1-C_8)alkyl-O-(C_1-C_8)alkyl-, H_2N-(C_1-C_8)alkyl-, (C_1-C_8)alkyl-NH-(C_1-C_8)alkyl-, [(C_1-C_8)alkyl]$_2$N-(C_1-C_8)alkyl-, (C_2-C_9)heterocyclyl-(C_1-C_8)alkyl-, (C_1-C_8)alkyl-(C=O)-NH-(C_1-C_8)alkyl-, (C_1-C_8)alkyl-O-(C=O)-NH-(C_1-C_8)alkyl-, H_2N-(C=O)-NH-(C_1-C_8)alkyl-, (C_1-C_8)alkyl-SO_2-NH-(C_1-C_8)alkyl-, (C_2-C_9)heteroaryl-(C_1-C_8)alkyl-, H_2N-(C=O)-, or H_2N-(C=O)-(C_1-C_8)alkyl-;

each R^4 is independently H-, HO-, halo-, NC-, HO-(C=O)-, H_2N-, (C_1-C_8)alkyl-NH-, [(C_1-C_8)alkyl]$_2$N-, (C_1-C_8)alkyl- optionally substituted with 1-3 fluorine atoms, (C_1-

C_8)alkyl-O- wherein the alkyl group is optionally substituted with 1-3 fluorine atoms, HO-(C_1-C_8)alkyl-, (C_1-C_8)alkyl-O-(C_1-C_8)alkyl-, H_2N-(C_1-C_8)alkyl-, (C_1-C_8)alkyl-NH-(C_1-C_8)alkyl-, [(C_1-C_8)alkyl]$_2$N-(C_1-C_8)alkyl-, (C_1-C_8)alkyl-(C=O)-, (C_1-C_8)alkyl-(C=O)-(C_1-C_8)alkyl-, (C_6-C_{10})aryl-, (C_2-C_9)heteroaryl-, (C_6-C_{10})aryloxy-, H_2N-(C=O)-, H_2N-(C=O)-(C_1-C_8)alkyl-, (C_1-C_8)alkyl-NH-(C=O)-, (C_1-C_8)alkyl-NH-(C=O)-(C_1-C_8)alkyl-, [(C_1-C_8)alkyl]$_2$N-(C=O)-, [(C_1-C_8)alkyl]$_2$-N-(C=O)-(C_1-C_8)alkyl-, (C_3-C_8)cycloalkyl-, (C_1-C_8)alkyl-SO_2-, NC-(C_1-C_8)alkyl-, (C_1-C_8)alkyl-(C=O)-NH-, H_2N-(C=O)-NH-, or H_2N-(C=O)-NH-(C_1-C_8)alkyl-; and

R^5 is (C_1-C_8)alkyl-.

2. The method according to claim 1, wherein each R^1 is independently H-, HO-, halo, NC-, (C_1-C_8)alkyl optionally substituted with 1-3 fluorine atoms or (C_1-C_8)alkyl-O- wherein the alkyl group is optionally substituted with 1-3 fluorine atoms.

3. The method according to claim 1, wherein R^2 and R^3 are each independently H-, (C_1-C_8)alkyl-, (C_3-C_8)cycloalkyl-, (C_3-C_8)cycloalkyl-(C_1-C_8)alkyl-, (C_6-C_{10})aryl-, (C_6-C_{10})aryl-(C_1-C_8)alkyl-, HO-(C_1-C_8)alkyl-, H_2N-(C_1-C_8)alkyl-, (C_2-C_9)heterocyclyl-(C_1-C_8)alkyl-, (C_1-C_8)alkyl-O-(C=O)-NH-(C_1-C_8)alkyl-, H_2N-(C=O)-NH-(C_1-C_8)alkyl-, (C_1-C_8)alkyl-SO_2-NH-(C_1-C_8)alkyl-, (C_2-C_9)heteroaryl-(C_1-C_8)alkyl-, H_2N-(C=O)-, or H_2N-(C=O)-(C_1-C_8)alkyl-.

4. The method according to claim 1, wherein X is -O- and Y is (C_6-C_{10})aryl.

5. The method according to claim 1, wherein X is -O- and Y is (C_2-C_9)heteroaryl.

6. The method according to claim 1, wherein each R^4 is independently H-, HO-, NC-, (C_1-C_8)alkyl-, (C_1-C_8)alkyl-O-, (C_1-C_8)alkyl-(C=O)-, or halo.

7. The method according to claim 2, wherein R^2 and R^3 are each independently H-, (C_1-C_8)alkyl-, (C_3-C_8)cycloalkyl-, (C_3-C_8)cycloalkyl-(C_1-C_8)alkyl-, (C_6-C_{10})aryl-, (C_6-C_{10})aryl-(C_1-C_8)alkyl-, HO-(C_1-C_8)alkyl-, H_2N-(C_1-C_8)alkyl-, (C_2-C_9)heterocyclyl-(C_1-C_8)alkyl-, (C_1-C_8)alkyl-O-(C=O)-NH-(C_1-C_8)alkyl-, H_2N-(C=O)-NH-

$(C_1$-$C_8)$alkyl-, $(C_1$-$C_8)$alkyl-SO_2-NH-$(C_1$-$C_8)$alkyl-, $(C_2$-$C_9)$heteroaryl-$(C_1$-$C_8)$alkyl-, H_2N-(C=O)-, or H_2N-(C=O)-$(C_1$-$C_8)$alkyl-.

8. The method according to claim 7, wherein X is -O- and Y is $(C_6$-$C_{10})$aryl.

9. The method according to claim 7, wherein X is -O- and Y is $(C_2$-$C_9)$heteroaryl.

10. The method according to claim 7, wherein each R^4 is independently H-, HO-, NC-, $(C_1$-$C_8)$alkyl- wherein the alkyl group is optionally substituted with 1-3 fluorine atoms, $(C_1$-$C_8)$alkyl-O- wherein the alkyl group is optionally substituted with 1-3 fluorine atoms, $(C_1$-$C_8)$alkyl-(C=O)-, or halo.

11. The method according to claim 8, wherein each R^4 is independently H-, HO-, NC-, $(C_1$-$C_8)$alkyl- wherein the alkyl group is optionally substituted with 1-3 fluorine atoms, $(C_1$-$C_8)$alkyl-O- wherein the alkyl group is optionally substituted with 1-3 fluorine atoms, $(C_1$-$C_8)$alkyl-(C=O)-, or halo.

12. The method according to claim 9, wherein each R^4 is independently H-, HO-, NC-, $(C_1$-$C_8)$alkyl- wherein the alkyl group is optionally substituted with 1-3 fluorine atoms, $(C_1$-$C_8)$alkyl-O- wherein the alkyl group is optionally substituted with 1-3 fluorine atoms, $(C_1$-$C_8)$alkyl-(C=O)-, or halo.

13. The method according to claim 2, wherein R^2 and R^3 are each independently H-, $(C_1$-$C_8)$alkyl- or $(C_3$-$C_8)$cycloalkyl-.

14. The method according to claim 13, wherein each R^4 is independently H-, HO-, NC-, $(C_1$-$C_8)$alkyl- wherein the alkyl group is optionally substituted with 1-3 fluorine atoms, $(C_1$-$C_8)$alkyl-O- wherein the alkyl group is optionally substituted with 1-3 fluorine atoms, $(C_1$-$C_8)$alkyl-(C=O)-, or halo.

15. The method according to claim 14, wherein X is -O- and Y is $(C_6$-$C_{10})$aryl.

16. The method according to claim 14, wherein X is -O- and Y is (C_2-C_9)heteroaryl.

17. The method according to claim 15, wherein R^5 is C_1 to C_3 alkyl.

18. The method according to claim 16, wherein R^5 is C_1 to C_3 alkyl.

19. The method according to claim 1, wherein said compound is:
(5-Bromo-2-{2-[4-(4-fluoro-benzyl)-2R-methyl-piperazin-1-yl]-2-oxo-ethoxy}-phenyl)-methanesulfonic acid;
(5-Chloro-2-{2-[4-(4-chloro-benzyl)-2R,5S-dimethyl-piperazin-1-yl]-2-oxo-ethoxy}-phenyl)-methanesulfonic acid;
2-(5-Bromo-2-{2-[4-(4-fluoro-benzyl)-2R-methyl-piperazin-1-yl]-2-oxo-ethoxy}-phenyl)-ethanesulfonic acid;
2-(5-Chloro-2-{2-[4-(4-chloro-benzyl)-2R,5S-dimethyl-piperazin-1-yl]-2-oxo-ethoxy}-phenyl)- ethanesulfonic acid;
(4-Bromo-2-{2-[4-(4-fluoro-benzyl)-2R,5S-dimethyl-piperazin-1-yl]-2-oxo-ethoxy}-phenyl)-methanesulfonic acid;
(3-Chloro-2-{2-[4-(4-fluoro-benzyl)-2R,5S-dimethyl-piperazin-1-yl]-2-oxo-ethoxy}-phenyl)-methanesulfonic acid;
(5-Bromo-2-{2-[4-(4-chloro-benzyl)-2R,5S-dimethyl-piperazin-1-yl]-2-oxo-ethoxy}-phenyl)-methanesulfonic acid;
(5-Chloro-2-{2-[4-(4-fluoro-benzyl)-2R-methyl-piperazin-1-yl]-2-oxo-ethoxy}-pyridin-3-yl)-methanesulfonic acid;
(5- Bromo-2-{2-[4-(4-fluoro-benzyl)-2R-methyl-piperazin-1-yl]-2-oxo-ethoxy}-pyridin-3-yl)-methanesulfonic acid;
(5-Chloro-2-{2-[4-(3,4-difluoro-benzyl)-2R,5S-dimethyl-piperazin-1-yl]-2-oxo-ethoxy}-phenyl)-methanesulfonic acid;
(5- Bromo -2-{2-[4-(3,4-difluoro-benzyl)-2R,5S-dimethyl-piperazin-1-yl]-2-oxo-ethoxy}-phenyl)-methanesulfonic acid;
(5-Chloro-2-{2-[4-(4-chloro-benzyl)-2R-methyl-piperazin-1-yl]-2-oxo-ethoxy}-phenyl)-methanesulfonic acid;

(5- Bromo -2-{2-[4-(4-chloro-benzyl)-2R-methyl-piperazin-1-yl]-2-oxo-ethoxy}-phenyl)-methanesulfonic acid;

(5-Chloro-2-{2-[4-(3,4-difluoro-benzyl)-2R-methyl-piperazin-1-yl]-2-oxo-ethoxy}-phenyl)-methanesulfonic acid;

(5- Bromo -2-{2-[4-(3,4-difluoro-benzyl)-2R-methyl-piperazin-1-yl]-2-oxo-ethoxy}-phenyl)-methanesulfonic acid;

2-(5-Chloro-2-{2-[4-(4-fluoro-benzyl)-2R,5S-dimethyl-piperazin-1-yl]-2-oxo-ethoxy}-phenyl)-ethanesulfonic acid;

(5- Bromo-2-{2-[4-(4-fluoro-benzyl)-2R-methyl-piperazin-1-yl]-2-oxo-ethoxy}-pyridin-3-yl)- ethanesulfonic acid;

(4-Chloro-2-{2-[4-(4-fluoro-benzyl)-2R,5S-dimethyl-piperazin-1-yl]-2-oxo-ethoxy}-phenyl)-methanesulfonic acid;

(3-Bromo-2-{2-[4-(4-fluoro-benzyl)-2R,5S-dimethyl-piperazin-1-yl]-2-oxo-ethoxy}-phenyl)-methanesulfonic acid;

(2-Chloro-6-{2-[4-(4-fluoro-benzyl)-2R,5S-dimethyl-piperazin-1-yl]-2-oxo-ethoxy}-phenyl)-methanesulfonic acid;

(5-Bromo-2-{2-[2R-ethyl-4-(4-fluoro-benzyl)-5S-methyl-piperazin-1-yl]-2-oxo-ethoxy}-phenyl)-methanesulfonic acid;

2-(5-Bromo-2-{2-[4-(4-fluoro-benzyl)-2R,5S-dimethyl-piperazin-1-yl]-2-oxo-ethoxy}-phenyl)-ethanesulfonic acid;

(5-Chloro-2-{2-[4-(4-fluoro-benzyl)-2R-methyl-piperazin-1-yl]-2-oxo-ethoxy}-phenyl)-methanesulfonic acid;

2-(5-Bromo-2-{2-[4-(4-chloro-benzyl)-2R,5S-dimethyl-piperazin-1-yl]-2-oxo-ethoxy}-phenyl)- ethanesulfonic acid;

2-(5-Chloro-2-{2-[4-(3,4-difluoro-benzyl)-2R,5S-dimethyl-piperazin-1-yl]-2-oxo-ethoxy}-phenyl)- ethanesulfonic acid;

2-(5-Chloro-2-{2-[4-(4-chloro-benzyl)-2R-methyl-piperazin-1-yl]-2-oxo-ethoxy}-phenyl)- ethanesulfonic acid;

2-(5-Bromo-2-{2-[4-(4-chloro-benzyl)-2R-methyl-piperazin-1-yl]-2-oxo-ethoxy}-phenyl)- ethanesulfonic acid;

(5-Chloro-2-{2-[4-(4-fluoro-benzyl)-2R,5S-dimethyl-piperazin-1-yl]-2-oxo-ethoxy}-phenyl)-methanesulfonic acid;

2-(5-Chloro-2-{2-[4-(3,4-difluoro-benzyl)-2R-methyl-piperazin-1-yl]-2-oxo-ethoxy}-phenyl)- ethanesulfonic acid;

(5- Bromo -2-{2-[4-(4-chloro-benzyl)-2R-methyl-piperazin-1-yl]-2-oxo-ethoxy}-pyridin-3-yl)- ethanesulfonic acid;

3-(5-Bromo-2-{2-[4-(4-fluoro-benzyl)-2R,5S-dimethyl-piperazin-1-yl]-2-oxo-ethoxy}-phenyl)- propane-1-sulfonic acid;

3-(5-Chloro-2-{2-[4-(4-fluoro-benzyl)-2R-methyl-piperazin-1-yl]-2-oxo-ethoxy}-phenyl)-propane-1-sulfonic acid;

3-(5-Bromo-2-{2-[4-(4-fluoro-benzyl)-2R-methyl-piperazin-1-yl]-2-oxo-ethoxy}-phenyl)-propane-1-sulfonic acid;

(2-Bromo-6-{2-[4-(4-fluoro-benzyl)-2R,5S-dimethyl-piperazin-1-yl]-2-oxo-ethoxy}-phenyl)-methanesulfonic acid;

(5-Chloro-2-{2-[2E-ethyl-4-(4-fluoro-benzyl)-5S-methyl-piperazin-1-yl]-2-oxo-ethoxy}-phenyl)-methanesulfonic acid;

3-(5-Chloro-2-{2-[4-(4-chloro-benzyl)-2R,5S-dimethyl-piperazin-1-yl]-2-oxo-ethoxy}-phenyl)- propane-1-sulfonic acid;

2-(5-Chloro-2-{2-[4-(4-fluoro-benzyl)-2R-methyl-piperazin-1-yl]-2-oxo-ethoxy}-phenyl)- ethanesulfonic acid;

3-(5-Bromo-2-{2-[4-(4-chloro-benzyl)-2R,5S-dimethyl-piperazin-1-yl]-2-oxo-ethoxy}-phenyl)- propane-1-sulfonic acid;

2-(5- Bromo -2-{2-[4-(3,4-difluoro-benzyl)-2R,5S-dimethyl-piperazin-1-yl]-2-oxo-ethoxy}-phenyl)- ethanesulfonic acid;

3-(5-Chloro-2-{2-[4-(3,4-difluoro-benzyl)-2R,5S-dimethyl-piperazin-1-yl]-2-oxo-ethoxy}-phenyl)- propane-1-sulfonic acid;

3-(5-Chloro-2-{2-[4-(4-fluoro-benzyl)-2R,5S-dimethyl-piperazin-1-yl]-2-oxo-ethoxy}-pyridin-3-yl)-propane-1-sulfonic acid;

(5-Bromo-2-{2-[4-(4-fluoro-benzyl)-2R,5S-dimethyl-piperazin-1-yl]-2-oxo-ethoxy}-pyridin-3-yl)-methanesulfonic acid;

3-(5-Chloro-2-{2-[4-(4-chloro-benzyl)-2R-methyl-piperazin-1-yl]-2-oxo-ethoxy}-phenyl)- propane-1-sulfonic acid;

(5-Bromo-2-{2-[4-(3,4-difluoro-benzyl)-2R-methyl-piperazin-1-yl]-2-oxo-ethoxy}-pyridin-3-yl)- ethanesulfonic acid;

(5-Bromo-2-{2-[2R-ethyl-4-(4-fluoro-benzyl)-5S-methyl-piperazin-1-yl]-2-oxo-ethoxy}-phenyl)- ethanesulfonic acid;

3-(5-Bromo-2-{2-[4-(4-chloro-benzyl)-2R-methyl-piperazin-1-yl]-2-oxo-ethoxy}-phenyl)- propane-1-sulfonic acid;

3-(5-Chloro-2-{2-[4-(3,4-difluoro-benzyl)-2R-methyl-piperazin-1-yl]-2-oxo-ethoxy}-phenyl)- propane-1-sulfonic acid;

(5-Bromo-2-{2-[4-(4-fluoro-benzyl)-2R,5S-dimethyl-piperazin-1-yl]-2-oxo-ethoxy}-pyridin-3-yl)- ethanesulfonic acid;

3-(5- Bromo -2-{2-[4-(3,4-difluoro-benzyl)-2R-methyl-piperazin-1-yl]-2-oxo-ethoxy}-phenyl)- propane-1-sulfonic acid;

(2-{2-[4-(4-Fluoro-benzyl)-2R,5S-dimethyl-piperazin-1-yl]-2-oxo-ethoxy}-5-methyl-phenyl)-methanesulfonic acid;

2-(5- Bromo -2-{2-[4-(3,4-difluoro-benzyl)-2R-methyl-piperazin-1-yl]-2-oxo-ethoxy}-phenyl)-ethanesulfonic acid;

3-(5-Chloro-2-{2-[4-(4-fluoro-benzyl)-2R,5S-dimethyl-piperazin-1-yl]-2-oxo-ethoxy}-phenyl)-propane-1-sulfonic acid;

(5-Chloro-2-{2-[4-(4-fluoro-benzyl)-2R,5S-dimethyl-piperazin-1-yl]-2-oxo-ethoxy}-pyridin-3-yl)-methanesulfonic acid;

(5-Bromo-2-{2-[4-(4-fluoro-benzyl)-2R,5S-dimethyl-piperazin-1-yl]-2-oxo-ethoxy}-phenyl)-methanesulfonic acid;

(5-Chloro-2-{2-[4-(3,4-difluoro-benzyl)-2R,5S-dimethyl-piperazin-1-yl]-2-oxo-ethoxy}-pyridin-3-yl)-methanesulfonic acid;

(5-Chloro-2-{2-[4-(4-chloro-benzyl)-2R,5S-dimethyl-piperazin-1-yl]-2-oxo-ethoxy}-pyridin-3-yl)-methanesulfonic acid;

(5-Bromo-2-{2-[4-(4-chloro-benzyl)-2R,5S-dimethyl-piperazin-1-yl]-2-oxo-ethoxy}-pyridin-3-yl)-methanesulfonic acid;

(5-Chloro-2-{2-[4-(3,4-difluoro-benzyl)-2R-methyl-piperazin-1-yl]-2-oxo-ethoxy}-pyridin-3-yl)-methanesulfonic acid;

(5-Bromo-2-{2-[4-(3,4-difluoro-benzyl)-2R-methyl-piperazin-1-yl]-2-oxo-ethoxy}-pyridin-3-yl)-methanesulfonic acid;

(5-Chloro-2-{2-[4-(4-chloro-benzyl)-2R-methyl-piperazin-1-yl]-2-oxo-ethoxy}-pyridin-3-yl)-methanesulfonic acid;

(5- Bromo-2-{2-[4-(4-chloro-benzyl)-2R-methyl-piperazin-1-yl]-2-oxo-ethoxy}-pyridin-3-yl)-methanesulfonic acid;

2-(5-Chloro-2-{2-[4-(4-fluoro-benzyl)-2R,5S-dimethyl-piperazin-1-yl]-2-oxo-ethoxy}-pyridin-3-yl)-ethanesulfonic acid;

(5-Chloro-2-{2-[4-(3,4-difluoro-benzyl)-2R,5S-dimethyl-piperazin-1-yl]-2-oxo-ethoxy}-pyridin-3-yl)- ethanesulfonic acid;

(5- Bromo -2-{2-[4-(3,4-difluoro-benzyl)-2R,5S-dimethyl-piperazin-1-yl]-2-oxo-ethoxy}-pyridin-3-yl)- ethanesulfonic acid;

(5-Chloro-2-{2-[4-(4-chloro-benzyl)-2R,5S-dimethyl-piperazin-1-yl]-2-oxo-ethoxy}-pyridin-3-yl)- ethanesulfonic acid;

(5- Bromo -2-{2-[4-(4-chloro-benzyl)-2R,5S-dimethyl-piperazin-1-yl]-2-oxo-ethoxy}-pyridin-3-yl)- ethanesulfonic acid;

3-(5-Bromo-2-{2-[4-(3,4-difluoro-benzyl)-2R,5S-dimethyl-piperazin-1-yl]-2-oxo-ethoxy}-phenyl)- propane-1-sulfonic acid;

(5-Chloro-2-{2-[4-(4-fluoro-benzyl)-2R-methyl-piperazin-1-yl]-2-oxo-ethoxy}-pyridin-3-yl)- ethanesulfonic acid;

(5-Chloro-2-{2-[4-(3,4-difluoro-benzyl)-2R-methyl-piperazin-1-yl]-2-oxo-ethoxy}-pyridin-3-yl)- ethanesulfonic acid;

(5- Bromo -2-{2-[4-(3,4-difluoro-benzyl)-2R,5S-dimethyl-piperazin-1-yl]-2-oxo-ethoxy}-pyridin-3-yl)-methanesulfonic acid;

(5-Chloro-2-{2-[4-(4-chloro-benzyl)-2R-methyl-piperazin-1-yl]-2-oxo-ethoxy}-pyridin-3-yl)- ethanesulfonic acid;

3-(5-Chloro-2-{2-[4-(4-fluoro-benzyl)-2R,5S-dimethyl-piperazin-1-yl]-2-oxo-ethoxy}-pyridin-3-yl)-propane-1-sulfonic acid;

2-(5-Chloro-2-{2-[4-(4-fluoro-benzyl)-2R,5S-dimethyl-piperazin-1-yl]-2-oxo-ethoxy}-phenyl)-propane-2-sulfonic acid;

2-(5-Bromo-2-{2-[4-(4-fluoro-benzyl)-2R,5S-dimethyl-piperazin-1-yl]-2-oxo-ethoxy}-phenyl)-propane-2-sulfonic acid;

2-(5-Chloro-2-{2-[4-(4-fluoro-benzyl)-2R,5S-dimethyl-piperazin-1-yl]-2-oxo-ethoxy}-phenyl)-2-methyl-propane-1-sulfonic acid;

2-(5-Bromo-2-{2-[4-(4-fluoro-benzyl)-2R,5S-dimethyl-piperazin-1-yl]-2-oxo-ethoxy}-phenyl)-2-methyl-propane-1-sulfonic acid;

1-(5-Chloro-2-{2-[4-(4-fluoro-benzyl)-2R,5S-dimethyl-piperazin-1-yl]-2-oxo-ethoxy}-phenyl)-2-methyl-propane-2-sulfonic acid;

(2-{2-[4-(4-Fluoro-benzyl)-2R,5S-dimethyl-piperazin-1-yl]-2-oxo-ethoxy}-5-trifluoromethyl-phenyl)-methanesulfonic acid;

(2-{2-[4-(4-Fluoro-benzyl)-2R,5S-dimethyl-piperazin-1-yl]-2-oxo-ethoxy}-5-trifluoromethyl-phenyl)-methanesulfonic acid;

(2-{2-[4-(4-Fluoro-benzyl)-2R,5S-dimethyl-piperazin-1-yl]-2-oxo-ethoxy}-5-methyl-phenyl)-methanesulfonic acid;

(5-Chloro-2-{2-[2R-ethyl-4-(4-fluoro-benzyl)-5S-methyl-piperazin-1-yl]-2-oxo-ethoxy}-phenyl)-methanesulfonic acid;
(5-Bromo-2-{2-[2R-ethyl-4-(4-fluoro-benzyl)-5S-methyl-piperazin-1-yl]-2-oxo-ethoxy}-phenyl)-methanesulfonic acid;
(5-Chloro-2-{2-[2R-ethyl-4-(4-fluoro-benzyl)-5S-methyl-piperazin-1-yl]-2-oxo-ethoxy}-phenyl)- ethanesulfonic acid;
(5-Chloro-2-{2-[2R-ethyl-4-(4-fluoro-benzyl)-piperazin-1-yl]-2-oxo-ethoxy}-phenyl)-methanesulfonic acid;
(5-Bromo-2-{2-[2R-ethyl-4-(4-fluoro-benzyl)-piperazin-1-yl]-2-oxo-ethoxy}-phenyl)-methanesulfonic acid;
(5-Chloro-2-{2-[2R-ethyl-4-(4-fluoro-benzyl)-piperazin-1-yl]-2-oxo-ethoxy}-phenyl)-ethanesulfonic acid;
(5-Bromo-2-{2-[2R-ethyl-4-(4-fluoro-benzyl)-piperazin-1-yl]-2-oxo-ethoxy}-phenyl)-ethanesulfonic acid;
1-(5-Bromo-2-{2-[4-(4-fluoro-benzyl)-2R,5S-dimethyl-piperazin-1-yl]-2-oxo-ethoxy}-phenyl)-2-methyl-propane-2-sulfonic acid;
2-(5-Chloro-2-{2-[4-(4-fluoro-benzyl)-2R,5S-dimethyl-piperazin-1-yl]-2-oxo-ethylamino}-phenyl)-ethanesulfonic acid; or
(5-Chloro-2-{2-[4-(4-fluoro-benzyl)-2R,5S-dimethyl-piperazin-1-yl]-2-oxo-ethylamino}-phenyl)-methanesulfonic acid.

20. The method according to claim 1, wherein the compound is:
(5-Chloro-2-{2-[4-(4-fluoro-benzyl)-2R,5S-dimethyl-piperazin-1-yl]- 2-oxo-ethoxy}-phenyl)-methanesulfonic acid;
(5-Chloro-2-{2-[4-(4-fluoro-benzyl)-2R-methyl-piperazin-1-yl]-2-oxo-ethoxy}-phenyl)-methanesulfonic acid;
2-(5-Chloro-2-{2-[4-(4-fluoro-benzyl)-2R,5S-dimethyl-piperazin-1-yl]-2-oxo-ethoxy}-phenyl)-ethanesulfonic acid;
(5-Chloro-2-{2-[4-(4-fluoro-benzyl)-2R,5S-dimethyl-piperazin-1-yl]-2-oxo-ethoxy}-pyridin-3-yl)-methanesulfonic acid;
(5-Bromo-2-{2-[4-(4-fluoro-benzyl)-2R,5S-dimethyl-piperazin-1-yl]-2-oxo-ethoxy}-phenyl)-methanesulfonic acid; or
(5-Bromo-2-{2-[4-(4-fluoro-benzyl)-2R-methyl-piperazin-1-yl]-2-ethoxy}-phenyl)-methanesulfonic acid.

21. The method according to claim 20, wherein the compound is administered as a composition comprising the compound of formula I and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

22. The method according to claim 21, wherein the disorder or condition is selected from the group consisting of pulmonary fibrosis, fibrosis associated with end-stage renal disease, fibrosis caused by radiation, tubulointerstitial fibrosis, subepithelial fibrosis, scleroderma, hepatic fibrosis, primary and secondary biliary cirrhosis, obesity, cachexia, anorexia, type II diabetes, hyperlipidemia and hypergonadism, sequelae associated with multiple myeloma, breast cancer, joint tissue damage, hyperplasia, pannus formation and bone resorption, hepatic failure, Kawasaki syndrome, myocardial infarction, acute liver failure, septic shock, congestive heart failure, pulmonary emphysema or dyspnea associated therewith, viral induced encephalomyelitis or demyelination, gastrointestinal inflammation, bacterial meningitis, cytomegalovirus, adenoviruses, Herpes viruses, fungal meningitis, lyme disease, and malaria.